UK Patent Application (6) GB (6) 2 336 918 (6) A

143) Date of A Publication 83.11.1999

| Application No 9881413.7 | (61) | INT CL ⁶ GBSF 1/00 , G07F 7/08 |
|---|--|---|
| Date of Filing 22.01.1998 | | |
| | 452) | UK CL (Edition O.) |
| | 1 | G4A AAP |
| Applicant(s) | į. | H4K KOG6 |
| Yalcom Limited | | |
| (Incorporated in the United Kingdom) | (56) | Documents Cited |
| 23 Modens Boad, HOVE, East Sussex, BN3 5QF, United Kingdom | | US 4876717 A |
| | (68) | Fleid of Search |
| Inventor(s) | 1 | UK CL (Edition CL) G4A AAP . H4K KODS KOD6 |
| Christopher David Pawsey | | INT CL ⁵ G06F 1/00, G07F 7/08 7/10 7/12, H04L 9/82 Selected publications and antine: COMPUTER, EDOC. |
| Agent and/or Address for Service | 1 | JAPIO, WPI |
| Frank B Dehn & Co | 1 | art ray to r |
| 179 Queen Victoria Street, LONDON, EC4V 4EL, | 4 | |
| United Kingdom | 1 | |
| | Date of Filing 22.01.1998 Applicant(s) Yakom Limited (Incorporated in the United Kingdom) 23 Modena Road, HOVE, East Sussex, BNI SOF, United Kingdom (Inventor(s) Christopher David Pavesey Appert and/on Address for Service Frank B Dehn & Co 175 Gueen Visionia Street, LONDON, EC4V 4EL, | Date of Filing 22.01.1898 [52] Applicantisi Valcom Limited (Incorporated in the United Kingdom) 22 Modean Boad, HOVE, East Sussex, BN3 SQF, United Kingdom Inventor(s) Christopher David Pawsey Agent and/or Address for Service Frank B Dehn & Co 175 Queen Vistoria Street, LONDON, EC4V 4EL, |

(54) Abstract Title

Apparatus and method for allowing connection to a network

(57) An interface apparatus (1) allows for the controlled and chargeable connection of a computer (10) to a network, e.g. to the internet via a service provider (11). The interface (1) has a telephone plug socket (9) to which the computer's modern (12) is connected. It imitates a dial tone, mimics e.g. the service provider of the number dialled by the computer (10), and establishes a connection. An application, such as a browser or E-mail may then faunch on the computer (10), and the interface (1) downloads code to be run by the application which requests validation data from the user, such as card information using a card swipe (6), and then validates this data at a validation centre (14) before allowing a direct connection to the service provider (11) for normal access to the network. The validation centre may be a card clearing house, which may bill the user accordingly, or may be a security checking centre. A bank of interfaces may be provided e.g. in a hotel or airport lobby to allow e.g. taptop users to connect to the internet, an intranet or some other network.

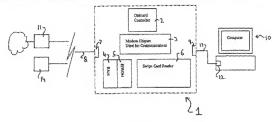


Fig 1